

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus which performs printing by scanning a carriage unit, having a printhead and a  
5 voltage control unit controlling the printhead, over a print medium based on information transmitted by an external apparatus, said voltage control unit comprising:

reception means for receiving an information  
10 signal transmitted from the printhead; and  
voltage generation means for generating a driving voltage which is adjusted to drive the printhead based on the information signal received by said reception means.

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2. The printing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said voltage generation means is a DC/DC converter which transforms a DC voltage to be applied to the printhead into a value appropriate for driving a  
20 mounted head.

3. The printing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the information signal includes an identification signal for identifying a type of the  
25 printhead, and said voltage generation means controls the driving voltage in accordance with the

identification signal.

4. The printing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the information signal includes a signal  
5 indicative of a variation of a plurality of heater  
resistances provided in the printhead, and said voltage  
generation means controls the driving voltage in  
accordance with said signal.

10 5. The printing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the information signal includes a signal  
indicative of temperature data of the printhead, and  
said voltage generation means controls the driving  
voltage in accordance with said signal.

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6. The printing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein a detection resistance is provided inside the  
printhead for detecting a variation of the heater  
resistances, and said voltage generation means comprises  
20 an internal resistance connected in series with the  
detection resistance,  
          wherein said voltage generation means compares a  
reference voltage, divided by the internal resistance  
and the detection resistance, with a driving voltage  
25 which drives the printhead, then controls the driving  
voltage so as to cancel an error in these voltages, and

adjusts the driving voltage in accordance with a variation of a load resistance value of the printhead so as to correct the variation.

5       7.     The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printhead includes a diode for detecting a temperature, and said voltage generation means comprises an internal resistance connected in series with the diode,

10           wherein said voltage generation means compares a reference voltage, divided by the internal resistance, detection resistance provided inside the printhead, and diode, with a driving voltage which drives the printhead, then corrects an error in these voltages, and  
15          generates a control voltage for optimizing power supplied to heat the printhead, so as to discharge ink in accordance with a temperature variation of the printhead.

20       8.     The printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

            a plurality of heat sources for generating bubble generation heat for driving in nozzle unit;  
            driving pulse generation means for generating a  
25       pulse train which drives the plurality of heat sources; and

heat source number detection means for detecting a number of plurality of heat sources driven simultaneously,

wherein said voltage generation means adjusts a 5 voltage outputted to the heat sources based on a signal from said heat source number detection means.

9. The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heat source number detection means detects 10 the number of plurality of heat sources driven simultaneously based on an image data signal.

10. A printing apparatus which performs printing by scanning a carriage unit, capable of holding a printhead 15 having a plurality of nozzles discharging ink, over a print medium based on information transmitted from an external apparatus, a body of the carriage unit comprising:

heat source detection means for detecting a number 20 of heat sources driving the nozzles; and voltage generation means for supplying a voltage to a heat source for driving the nozzles, in accordance with the number of heat sources detected by said heat source detection means.

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11. A printing apparatus forming an image on a print

medium by supplying an electric energy necessary for printing to a heating resistance of a printhead, comprising:

a switching device for controlling each heating  
5 resistance;

a printhead including a detection resistance for detecting a variation of a resistance value of the heating resistances;

a voltage variable circuit for adjusting a power  
10 source voltage, applied to the heating resistance, in accordance with the resistance value of the detection resistance so as to apply energy appropriate for printing; and

a head driving power source circuit for comparing  
15 a first voltage value, generated by dividing a reference voltage by the detection resistance and a resistance provided outside the printhead, with a second voltage value, generated by dividing an output voltage of the head driving power source driving the printhead by a  
20 resistance, and controlling an output voltage so as to cancel a difference between the first voltage value and the second voltage value,

wherein a GND-side end of the detection resistance provided inside the printhead is connected as a common  
25 wiring with a GND wiring transmitting a driving current of the printhead.

12. The printing apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein the GND-side end of the detection resistance  
connects with the common wiring transmitting a load  
5 current in an internal portion of the printhead, and the  
detection resistance does not have a dedicated outgoing  
contact pad on a GND-side terminal.

13. The printing apparatus according to claim 11,  
10 wherein in a case where the GND-side end of the  
detection resistance connects with the common wiring  
transmitting a load current in an external portion of  
the printhead, the connection position is located in the  
middle of the printhead and an output voltage stable  
15 point of the power source circuit.

14. The printing apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein a ratio of a wiring resistance value of the  
common wiring to a wiring resistance value of all  
20 wirings, connecting the power source circuit with the  
printhead and transmitting a head load current, is  
appropriately set in accordance with an output voltage  
so as to cancel a voltage drop in a load due to a wiring  
resistance.